

REMARKS

Claims 2, 20-21, 23, 31, 39, 41-44, 46-47, 49-51, 54-57, and 62-63 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-13, 16-19, 24, 32-34, 37, 40, 52-53, 58-61 are now in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from Claims 15, 23, and/or 57.

Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from Claim 39.

Claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 16, 19, 24, 34, 37, 40, and 52 have been amended for clarity and/or reflect proper claim dependency.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 has been objected to because Claim 15 reads "The method of any one of claim 14". Applicants have canceled Claim 15 and thus submit this objection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that is not described in the specification to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicants have now amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations from Claims 15, 23, and/or 57. Applicants thus submit that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 15-21, 23, 24, 37, 39, 40, and 57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the invention. Applicants submit that the claims, as presently amended, distinctly claim the present invention.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 10, 12, 31, 32, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, 49-51, 54, 55, 58, and 61-63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baeck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,077,818. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have now amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations from Claims 15, 23, and/or 57, and have amended Claim 32 to incorporate the limitation from Claim 39. Applicants have also canceled Claims 2, 20-21, 23, 31, 39, 41-44, 46-47, 49-51, 54-57, and 62-63 without prejudice. Applicants thus submit that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1-4, 10-12, 31, 32, 41, 42-44, 46, 47, 49-51, 54, 55, 58, and 61-63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rusche et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,686,376. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have now amended

Claim 1 to to incorporate the limitations from Claims 15, 23, and/or 57, and have amended Claim 32 to incorporate the limitation from Claim 39. Applicants have also canceled Claims 2, 20-21, 23, 31, 39, 41-44, 46-47, 49-51, 54-57, and 62-63 without prejudice. Applicants thus submit that this rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 10-13, 31-34, 41-44, 46, 47, 49-56, and 58-63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trinh et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,977,055. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have now amended Claim 1 to to incorporate the limitations from Claims 15, 23, and/or 57, and have amended Claim 32 to incorporate the limitation from Claim 39. Applicants have also canceled Claims 2, 20-21, 23, 31, 39, 41-44, 46-47, 49-51, 54-57, and 62-63 without prejudice. Applicants thus submit that this rejection is now moot.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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